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>>> "James W. Burdick" <jwb@jwburdicklaw.com> 7/28/2010 5:34 PM >>>
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I strongly urge rejection of any proposed rules restricting any kind of applications to court of appeals, and I strongly urge rejection of any proposed rules restricting the time for filing of 6.500 motions. What, the courts are too overworked in this state? I don't think so but, even if they were, no innocent person should ever have any procedural impediment to demonstrating his or her innocence. America is better than that, or we sure should be.

Also, it remain impossible for me to believe, after more than a decade of defendant after defendant turning up as *factually innocent* after spending 10, 15 or 20 years in prison, often on death row, that anyone on the Michigan Supreme Court – or any court anywhere – would even consider *shortening* filing deadlines. Have they considered how many *innocent* people remain in prison right now – or have already been executed – because there was *no DNA evidence to be tested*? Or that **25%** of all the 250 or so releases through of DNA involved false confessions having been given by people because of exhaustion, police deception and false promises or diminished intelligence?

The very last thing society needs is *more* restricted access to the courts; justice ought not have any time limit to give victims or their families "closure" or for the convenience of our elected or appointed judicial officers. If a *single* innocent person were released after years of struggle and failures by trial and appellate counsel, why should it matter if 50, or 100, or 200, guilty defendants abused the system? Truth has no limits, why should innocence?

America was built on the premise that justice must be served, far over convenience or any notion of "closure," difficult as it may be for victims and their families. It does not serve any of them for the wrong person to be imprisoned.

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